



## RESOLUTION #07-13

### A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CERTAIN LOCAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia General Assembly will convene in early 2008 to consider important legislative matters of the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, it is appropriate for the City Council to adopt a legislative program to present to its representatives in the General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council has carefully considered a legislative program, and believes that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Williamsburg.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of Williamsburg, Virginia hereby endorses the attached 2008 Legislative Issues List and urges consideration and passage as appropriate.

Adopted: November 8, 2007

Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor

Paul T. Freiling, Council Member

Clyde A. Haulman, Vice-Mayor

M.P. Chohany, Council Member

Robert A. Braxton, Council Member



## **DRAFT 2008 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES** *City of Williamsburg*

### ★ **Hampton Roads Transportation Authority (HB 3202) Revisions**

Williamsburg supports amendments to HB3202 as recommended by the newly formed HRTA to modify the schedule of taxes and fees to make them more equitable, collectable, and tied to transportation.

### ★ **Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail Expansion**

Williamsburg supports the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail Authority's (VRJP) request for an exemption to the statewide moratorium on jail construction which will allow VRJP to plan for expansion to meet current and future inmate population needs.

### ★ **Future of Eastern State Hospital Surplus Property**

Williamsburg asks the Commonwealth for ongoing support for the community-based land planning initiative through the Williamsburg Area Crossroads partnership for the future of surplus state owned property adjacent to Eastern State Hospital.

### ★ **Restrictions on Local Revenue Prerogatives**

Williamsburg opposes further limitations on local revenue prerogatives, such as: procedures and policy for real estate assessments and tax rates; redirection or restrictions of 599 Public Safety funding, and restrictions on business, professional and occupational taxing (BPOL).

### ★ **Prevention of Exploitative Payday Lending Practices**

Williamsburg supports legislation that prevents exploitative payday lending practices.



### **Recommended Funding Priorities**

- **Virginia Tourism.** The Virginia Tourism Corporation needs a meaningful level of funding to promote tourism in Virginia generally, and in the Historic Triangle in particular. It would be a sound public investment with a demonstrable rate of return.
- **Governor's Preschool Initiative.** The Governor's preschool initiative, which seeks an additional \$75 million to expand access to high quality preschool programs for at-risk four-year-old children, is responsible and well conceived. It deserves General Assembly support.
- **State Supported Local Employees.** Consistent annual pay increases for state supported and partially supported local employees such as Constitutional Officers and school teachers, and adequate staffing levels for partially state supported local functions such as Regional Jails, should not be deferred in tight budget years.
- **William and Mary School of Education.** State funding for the construction of the School of Education on Monticello Avenue continues to be a high priority for both the College and the City.
- **Public Libraries.** The city supports the request of the Virginia Library Association for \$2 million for State Aid to Public Libraries from the Virginia General Assembly for each year of the biennial budget.